

FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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DRAFT SPEECH

President Shands, Members of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Congressman Broyhill, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I want to thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to talk to you tonight -- not so much because I think I can tell you much that you don't know already about the proposed CIA building, but more because it gives me a chance to get to know my prospective friends and neighbors in Fairfax County. I believe that when the Central Intelligence Agency has moved to Langley, all of us are going to be glad that we worked to have it placed in that charming locality.

Even ten years ago when Congress authorized a Central Intelligence Agency, its activities were expanding so fast and showing such signs of further expansion that it became evident to the Director and his associates that it would be desirable to have all Agency components under one roof. This would have been ordinary prudence under any circumstances -- but it was particularly desirable for an Agency with a pressing security problem. No

bank would be likely to house each of its departments and some of its money in each of several separate buildings with separate guards for each. The maintenance problem alone would be enough to horrify a good businessman.

The growth of CIA that led to the need of a building did not take place because we wanted growth; it was made necessary by the pressure of world events over which we had no control.

If the end of the war in 1945 had been coincident with the beginning of a period of actual peace, the story would have been somewhat different. I don't mean that there would have been no central intelligence agency under those circumstances. The day when the United States could expect to get along indefinitely without a carefully constructed foreign intelligence service ended, I suppose, when the Wright brothers flew their first plane at Kitty Hawk! As the leader of nations after 1945, the United States could not have afforded to be without an improved intelligence service.

But as we are all grimly aware, there has really never been a day of peace since the war ended. Always, there has hung over us the possibility that either a Soviet decision to communize the world by force, or any one of a number of possible missteps anywhere in the world could mean sudden

and overwhelming disaster.

Under these circumstances, the government had no option in the matter of intelligence. It was vital that we be informed at all times of what was going on in the world -- what was likely to happen -- what could happen.

This was the real reason why Central Intelligence began to expand even in 1947. It has been the basic reason why we have had to ask Congress for funds for building purposes.

Having received the necessary authorizations, we decided, after due consideration of other possibilities, to build in Langley. We were not, I must observe, the first to see the attractions of this fine community in this historic section of Virginia. Of course, our case was not exactly that of the average home-owner who moves to the country -- but in point of fact, the congested conditions in a metropolitan area do not constitute nowadays an ideal environment for an enterprise that employs office workers any more than they do for one's own family. Witness the tendency of late for much of industry to move into the country. CIA is not the only federal agency to build outside the city of Washington.

It was persistently on my mind during the long controversy over the Langley site that the land we proposed to occupy already belonged to the Government. Why, unless it became necessary, should we put the Federal Government to the expense of buying new land? Why, unless we had to, should we dispossess anyone already living on land that we wanted to acquire? Why, if we didn't have to, should we place a tract of land in public ownership with consequent loss of taxes which would have to be made up by the local community? As you doubtless realize, we are not even taking all of the acreage at Langley now used by the Bureau of Public Roads, but only about a fifth of it.

One further event helped to show that we had been right in our decision to move into Fairfax County. You will remember that a year ago last January, Representative Broyhill polled the voters of this county on the question of whether they favored the location of the Central Intelligence Agency in their midst, and that three out of four of the people answering Mr. Broyhill's questionnaire wanted CIA to come here, while less than twenty percent found such a move objectionable. It was most gratifying to know that our presence would be welcome to most of the people in the neighborhood where we planned to settle.

The question now arises as to whether we shall live up to the kindly expectations of some 1800 people who thought that they could put up with the comings and goings of a new group of office workers in their home area.

Before I say anything on that question, I think that I ought to report on the present status of our plans.

As you probably know, construction of the new building is in the hands of the General Services Administration's Public Buildings Service. This agency has entered into a contract with Harrison and Abramovitz, New York architects who are now drawing up the plans. These plans are still in a tentative stage, but it is hoped that we shall be able to begin site development this fall and issue bids for building construction early next summer. As a matter of fact, just last week soil testers began boring on the property to find the exact spot for the foundation. We must remember, however, that from two to two and a half years will be needed for construction. It will be 1960 or perhaps 1961 before you will see an actual CIA building with actual people in it in Langley.

As you have noticed, some of the road building has already begun -- namely the extension of the George Washington Parkway from Spout Run.

The Virginia Department of Highways assures us that the widening of Route 123 to four lanes will begin this fall. These roads, as you know, are not being built for CIA alone. They have long been planned and would have been put through in any case. Our part has been that of expediting in getting them finished sooner than would otherwise have been probable.

Work on both these roads should be completed in time to remove any possibility that traffic might become congested when the new building is occupied. In fact -- with this new road construction -- it would appear that traffic ought to move more freely through this part of the County than it has been able to do in some years.

Arrangements have already been made for necessary public services. The Virginia Electric Power Company and the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Companies have agreed to provide electricity and telephone services; Fairfax County is fitting plans for sewage disposal into its master county plan; the City of Falls Church has promised to furnish the water.

In short, the preparations have been made; work is going forward; it's just a matter of time before we shall be occupying our new quarters.

What will this mean to the residents of Fairfax County?

In the first place, it will mean one more building in the County. New construction is surely no novelty to this area at this point! It will be quite a modest building actually. As you will remember, we asked originally for 54 million dollars; the Budget Bureau cut that down to 50 million, and Congress further cut it to 46 million. While all this cutting down was taking place, building costs were going steadily up. By this time, we could not have afforded anything elaborate even if we had wanted it. But we nourished no ambitions to compete with the more ornate edifices in the National Capital. We have an important job to do, and all we want is efficient working space to do it in.

For this purpose, the new building will consist essentially of several block-type wings, plain but certainly not unattractive. It will be seven stories high, of pre-cast concrete. Even in this essentially severe structure, the architects have been able to introduce features of sufficient artistic merit to gain the approval of the Fine Arts Commission.

The building will not obtrude on anyone's privacy; I doubt that you will even be able to see it without going out of your way. We are not going to be cutting off anybody's view. There will be no essential change to the

in the Langley landscape that is not for the best.

I don't think that the relocation of our activities is going to result in extensive construction other than the building itself. As you are probably aware, one of our principal reasons for wanting to come to Langley was that this spot was near what you might call our center of population. Some 31% of our people already live in Virginia--23% of them in Fairfax or Arlington County; 37% are in Northwest Washington. Eleven per cent are in Montgomery County, Maryland which will be easily accessible when the new road system is completed.

For the great majority of our employees, in other words, the office will either be nearer, about the same distance, or very little farther away from home than before. I doubt that many of them will be inclined to change their present residences in favor of housing next door to the office.

I don't think that anyone in the Langley area is going to be disturbed when our people start going to work here. This business of ours, is a very quiet one. We try not to be obtrusive. With the acceleration of an adequate road system which is now taking place because of CIA plans, I'm sure that no one in Langley will be impeded in going about his usual business. Traffic

will flow in quietly in the morning and out again quietly at night. That will be all.

Putting this all together, I should say that little will be changed in the area of Langley during the next few years. I think that the countryside will remain just about as rural as ever and as pleasant as ever.

That the new building, nevertheless, will represent an element of change in this part of Fairfax goes without saying, but change of some sort was inevitable. We must remember that the size of Washington has doubled in twenty years. When cities expand at that rate, they spread out into the surrounding country because they have nowhere else to go.

Whether the surrounding country is improved thereby or virtually ruined depends on intelligent planning by those interested in the affected areas. That is one place where you of this County and this organization deserve all praise that has been coming to you--in taking it upon yourselves to see to it that this County in the years to come will not be senselessly built up to the detriment of yourselves and your posterity.

It seems to me that the coming CIA building is a worthy part of this plan. I believe that its presence will always be beneficial to this county, just as

I believe that location here will be beneficial to CIA.

I sincerely hope that this meeting tonight in this handsome country club with you leaders of Fairfax County life will be the beginning of a long and mutually profitable friendship. I think that you are going to be glad that you welcomed us into your county. We shall do our best to be good neighbors.